

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

17.1 The following co-pending applications, which are filed the same day as this application, are hereby incorporated by reference: U.S. Application No. ~~___/___~~ 09/679,720, entitled "Routing Client Requests to Back-End Servers, and U.S. Application No. ~~___/___~~ 09/679,716, entitled "Transparently Redirecting Client Requests for Content."

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 of page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

17.2 Primarily, the front end server 210 receives requests from the client 200 and directs those requests to one of the back end servers 220. The front end server 210 thus provides a single namespace from the viewpoint of the client 200 and the client 200 is unaware of which back end server actually services the request. In this sense, the front end server 210 functions to direct or route client requests to the appropriate server. This is more fully described in a co-pending application entitled "Routing Client Requests to Back-End Servers," serial number ~~___/___~~ 09/679,720, filed the same day herewith and incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 20 with the following amended paragraph:

17.3 Once a valid back end server has been selected, the request 216 is sent to the back end server 222 to service the request. In this case, the back end server 222 has resource 240 and resource 241. The resource 241, indicated by dashed lines, is ghosted and the content of that resource is not physically present on the back end server 222. If the request 216 is for the ghosted resource 241, the back end server 222 sends a list of servers 218 to the front end server 210 that contains a list of all back end servers that actually do store the requested content. The list of servers 218 returned by the back end server 222 is typically a subset of the list of servers 212. The front end server 210 executes the hash function on the list of servers 218 to select a

back end server to service the client request. In this example, the back end server 224 is selected and the request 217 is then sent to the back end server 224, which does store the content in the resource 243 that is ghosted in the resource 241 and was the subject of the initial request 216. As more fully described in the co-pending U.S. application serial No. 09/679,716, entitled "Transparently Redirecting Client Requests for Content," filed the same day herewith and incorporated by reference, the redirection of the request 216 from the back end server 222 to the back end server 224 is transparent.
